



MARYLAND INSIGHTS

DIVISION OF TOURISM AND FILM
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Harry Coker, Jr. Confirmed as Maryland Secretary of Commerce

On April 3, Harry Coker Jr., was sworn in as Maryland Secretary of Commerce by Governor Wes Moore after serving as acting Secretary since February 5. Coker is a retired Central Intelligence Agency senior executive, former National Security Agency senior executive and career Naval Officer. He previously served as the U.S. national cyber director, serving in the White House from 2023 to 2025. While serving as executive director of the National Security Agency, he directly supported the director and deputy director in the strategic and day-to-day leadership of the agency. During his service with the Central Intelligence Agency, Harry Coker was assigned to leadership positions in the Directorate of Digital Innovation; the Directorate of Science & Technology; and the Director's Area. Outside of the government, Harry Coker has served as the president of the Central Intelligence Retirees Association and on the boards of directors of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation; the U.S. Navy Memorial; and Dog Tag, Inc. "At the heart of our economic growth agenda is a commitment to investing in industries of the future—from cyber to quantum. Harry Coker understands that mission and brings a wealth of

experience working on the leading edge of the very sectors Maryland stands to win," said Gov. Moore. Learn more about the Department of Commerce [here](#).

Photo credit: Joe Andrucyk/Governor's Office

Pictured from left to right: Senior Economic Development Advisor to the Governor Kevin Anderson, Governor Wes Moore and Maryland Secretary of Commerce Harry Coker, Jr.



Preakness Festival 150 Opportunities

As the historic 150th running of the Preakness Stakes approaches, make sure your partners and stakeholders are aware of the Preakness Festival's robust, week-long schedule of tours, concerts, tournaments, and more. A complete schedule of events is available [here](#). If you or your stakeholders have Preakness-related events, make sure they are entered into [VisitMaryland.org events calendar](#) so we can help spread the word in advance of this historic event.

Photo credit: Preakness Festival



Bikeways Grant Program Applications Open

The Maryland Department of Transportation has announced that applications are open for up to \$2 million in funding for projects that enhance safety and improve bicycling infrastructure in communities across the state. The Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Grant Program is a competitive program that focuses on local priorities for building networks of bicycle infrastructure improvements. Projects include trail connections, on-road bicycle facilities and enhancing last-mile connections.

[Project eligibility criteria](#), a [map of past projects](#), the [program overview](#) and more information is available on

the [Kim Lamphier Bikeways Program website](#). The grant application deadline is May 26.



National Travel and Tourism Week 2025

National Travel and Tourism Week (NTTW) 2025 is May 4-10. NTTW is an annual tradition to celebrate the U.S. travel community and travel's essential role in stimulating economic growth, cultivating vibrant communities, creating quality job opportunities, inspiring new businesses, and elevating the quality of life for Americans every day. Click [here](#) for a list of NTTW events in Maryland.



OTD's Scenic Byways Social Media Campaign

As we continue to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Maryland's Scenic Byways program, OTD is featuring our state's 18 scenic byways on our social media platforms, with posts strategically timed to coincide with themed holidays or seasonal trends. Posts are published on Wednesdays (#WanderlustWednesday) and Sundays (#ScenicSunday) to inspire and inform potential travelers about the accommodations, attractions, restaurants, and shopping experiences along each byway. Make sure that the businesses and attractions that are along the byway or byways that run through your county have up-to-date and accurate business listings on [VisitMaryland.org](#) so that we can drive business to them. Please contact Brandon Chan, 301-447-3719, brandon.chan@maryland.gov or Florence (Flo) Brant, 301-292-4172, florence.brant@maryland.gov for assistance creating or updating a listing.



Sherwood Gardens Featured in Hometown Hotspot

In coverage secured by OTD, Sherwood Gardens in Baltimore City's Guilford neighborhood was featured in a recent WBFF Hometown Hotspot for National Garden Month. The segments include interviews with Sherwood Gardens volunteer, [Elizabeth Comer](#) and with OTD's Public Relations Specialist [Claire Aubel](#).

Photo credit: @kidfriendlymaryland



VisitMaryland.org First Quarter Statistics Reported

[VisitMaryland.org](#) got more than 1.2 million views during the first quarter of 2025, which resulted in more than 82,000 referrals to local Maryland businesses. With more than 660,000 users in the first quarter, VisitMaryland.org had a 52 percent engagement rate with a 4 percent increase in views, a 16 percent increase in users, and a 17 percent increase in sessions compared to the same period last year. VisitMaryland.org also garnered nearly 50,000 event listing views and 15,000 Accommodation listing views via organic search. [Click here to see the full report.](#)

Ensure you are doing everything possible to take advantage of valuable opportunities, including claiming your listing on VisitMaryland.org and by partnering with our office. Explore "Ways to Work With Us" and "Expand Your Markets" sections on [Industry.VisitMaryland.org](#) or contact [Lisa Hansen Terhune](#) to learn more.



Promote Your Events on VisitMaryland.org

Do your partners know how easy it is to add events to [VisitMaryland.org's events calendar](#)? If you or an organization or attraction in your region is hosting an event, it's easy to get the word out through VisitMaryland.org's events calendar. With tens of thousands of regular visitors, it's a great tool, and with our self-entry portal, it's never been easier to use! If you're wondering if an event has the right stuff for the VisitMaryland.org calendar, you'll find the inclusion criteria [here](#), [follow this link](#) for a step-by-step guide for self entry, or if it's not your first rodeo, jump straight to the entry portal [here](#).

Photo credit: Karmen Osei

IN THE NEWS

Six Flags Closure: Two Parks to Shutter in Maryland, to Be Sold for Redevelopment

One Baltimore Restaurant Makes James Beard Awards' Finalist List

Maryland Crabbing Season 2025 Opens: What You Need To Know About Licenses, Limits, And Rules

Maryland Casinos Generate \$172.1 Million In Gaming Revenue During March 2025

Carnival Could Bring Larger Cruise Ship To Baltimore Starting in 2027

Patti LaBelle, Juvenile to Headline Baltimore's AFRAM Festival in June

National Park Service Restores Harriet Tubman References to Underground Railroad Webpage

The Best Seafood In Southern Maryland

A Paddling Experience Fit for a 'King' in Southern Maryland

Hometown Hotspot: Hanging out with the Carroll County Arts Council's 'PEEPshow'

Orange Crush Cocktail Gives Maryland Some Solace During Turbulent Time

Preak Weeks is Back to Celebrate Baltimore's Businesses and Preakness 150

Tourism Sector Could Face Unique Headwinds from Tariffs

Nick's Mini Golf, Thrasher's Fries: Five New Businesses Now Open & Coming Soon To Ocean City

Championship Golf Returns to Baltimore Country Club

American Visionary Art Museum Names New Director

Nine Hidden Treasures in Baltimore County

Chefs Compete to Tame Invasive Catfish at Cookoff

Bay Bridge Boat Show Kicks Off Season With Crowds at New Location at Safe Harbor Narrows Point

Why The CIAA Tournament Might Stay in Baltimore an Extra Year

Maryland Minute

Each week, the *Maryland Minute* provides highlights and insights on this weekend's events around the state. *Maryland Minute* is featured on Audacy radio stations in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., WERQ on Baltimore's WBAL-AM 1090.

Maryland Travel Tips

For the latest on events and everything going all around Maryland, view the latest edition of [Visit Maryland Now!](#)

